

## **General Terms**

**Farm** - The definition of a farm for census purposes was first established in 1850. It has been changed nine times since. The current definition, first used for the 1974 census, is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year. Federal farm program payments are regarded as sales for the purpose of definitional eligibility.

**Farms by principal occupation of operator** - Data on principal occupation were requested from all operators. The principal occupation classifications used were:

Farming - The operator spent 50 percent or more of his/her worktime in farming or ranching.

Other - The operator spent more than 50 percent of his/her worktime in occupations other than farming or ranching.

**Farms by tenure of operator** - All farms were classified by tenure of operator. The classifications used were as follows:

Full owners - operated only land they owned.

Part owners - operated land they owned and also land they rented from others.

Tenants - operated only land they rented from others or worked on shares for others.

**Farms by type of organization** - All farms were classified by type of organization in the 1997 census. The classifications used were as follows:

Individual or family (sole proprietorship), excluding partnership and corporation.

Partnership, including family partnership.

Corporation, including family corporation—further sub-classified into the following two categories:

1. Family held or other than family held

2. More than 10 stockholders or less than 10 stockholders

Other, cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.

**Government payments** - This category consists of direct cash payments received by the farm operator in 1997. It includes disaster payments; transition payments from prior participation; payments from Conservation Reserve Programs, the Wetlands Reserve Programs, and other conservation programs; and all other federal farm programs under which payments were made directly to farm operators.

**Harvested cropland** - This category includes land from which crops were harvested or hay was cut, and land in orchards, citrus groves, Christmas trees, vineyards, nurseries, and greenhouses. Land from which two or more crops were harvested was counted only once. Land in tapped maple trees is included in woodland not pastured.

**Land in farms** - The acreage designated as “land in farms” consists primarily of agricultural land used for crops, pasture, or grazing. It also includes woodland and wasteland not actually under cultivation or used for pasture or grazing, provided it was part of the farm operator’s total operation. Large acreages of woodland or wasteland held for nonagricultural purposes were deleted from individual reports during the processing operations. Land in farms includes acres in the Conservation Reserve and Wetlands Reserve Programs.

Land in farms is an operating unit concept and includes land owned and operated as well as land rented from others. Land used rent free was to be reported as land rented from others. All grazing land, except land used under government permits on a per-head basis, was included as “land in farms” provided it was part of a farm or ranch. Land under the exclusive use of a grazing association was to be reported by the grazing association and included as land in farms. All land in American Indian reservations used for growing crops or grazing livestock was to be included as land in farms. Land in reservations not reported by individual American Indians or non-Native Americans was to be reported in the name of the cooperative group that used the land. In many instances, an entire American Indian reservation was reported as one farm.

**Market value of agricultural products sold** - This category represents the gross market value before taxes and production expenses of all agricultural products sold or removed from the place in 1997 regardless of who received the payment. It includes sales by the operator as well as the value of any shares received by partners, landlords, contractors, or others associated with the operation. In addition, it includes receipts from placing commodities in the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan program in 1997. It does not include payments received for participation in other federal farm programs nor does it include income from farm-related sources such as customwork and other agricultural services, or income from nonfarm sources.

The value of crops sold in 1997 does not necessarily represent the sales from crops harvested in 1997. Data may include sales from crops produced in earlier years and may exclude some crops produced in 1997 but held in storage and not sold. For commodities such as sugar beets and wool sold through a co-op which made payments in several installments, respondents were requested to report the total value received in 1997.

The value of agricultural products sold was requested of all operators. If the operator failed to report this information, estimates were made based on the amount of crops harvested, livestock or poultry inventory, or number sold. Extensive estimation was required for operators growing crops or livestock under contract.

Caution should be used when comparing sales in 1997 with sales reported in earlier censuses. Sales figures are expressed in current dollars and have not been adjusted for inflation or deflation.

**Operator** - The term “operator” designates a person who operates a farm, either doing the work or making day-to-day decisions about such things as planting, harvesting, feeding, and marketing. The operator may be the owner, a member of the owner’s household, a hired manager, a tenant, a renter, or a sharecropper. If a person rents land to others or has land worked on shares by others, he/she is considered the operator only of the land which is retained for his/her own operation. For partnerships, only one partner is counted as the operator. If it is not clear which partner is in charge, then the senior or oldest active partner is considered the operator.

**Operators of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin** - No imputation was made for those not responding to the question on Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin. Operators of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin are found in all of the racial groups listed in the census and were tabulated according to the race reported.

## **Symbols**

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.